United Nations A/HRC/31/NGO/50

General Assembly

Distr.: General
17 February 2016

English only

Human Rights Council
Thirty-first session
Agenda item 4
Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by International Educational Development, Inc., a non-governmental organization on the roster

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[10 February 2016]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

GE.16-02319(E)

Please recycle

The situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran

International Educational Development, Inc., the Association of Humanitarian Lawyers and the Association of Human Rights in Kurdistan of Iran – Geneva (KMMK-G) have been concerned about the situation of the Kurdish population in Iran for many years. We have submitted a number of written statements, have made oral statements and have hosted many side events on this subject. We have also maintained close contact with the Council's Special Rapporteur on Iran. This statement briefly sets out some of our current concerns.

The Islamic Republic of Iran ranks the first for executions per capita in the world. According to the data collected by the Association of Human Rights in Kurdistan of Iran-Geneva (KMMK-G), in 2015 at least 928 people were executed and most of the political hangings have been carried out against members of ethnic minorities. In this regard, despite the execution secrecy and the government refusal to publish the names and the ethnicity or whereabouts of the executed prisoners, the KMMK-G has been able to identify the names of 67 Kurdish prisoners executed in 2015.

Regarding the number of political prisoners in Iran, out of 1152 political prisoners documented, 467 belong to the Kurdish minority and out of 93 prisoners sentenced for *Mohareb* (enmity against God) crime, 63 of them are Kurds. The Kurdish community remains one of the most affected in the country, with individuals facing persecution, arrest and in many cases sentenced to death because of their activism. In 2015, ten Kurdish prisoners have been hanged for their political and opinion motives: Behruz Alkhani, Sirwan Najawi, Mansoor Arwand, Mukhalad Mawana, Hamed Ahmedi, Jamshid Jahangir Dehqani, Kamal Mawlayee,Sadeeq Muhammadi, and Hadi Hussein.

Despite president's Rohani administration pledges to change the government security approach towards Iranian Kurdistan, the number of indiscriminate killings of Kurdish *Kulbaran* (border couriers-tradesmen) by Iranian security forces, is dramatically rising. Due to a high rate of unemployment and the land contamination by landmines and explosive remnants of war, the Kurdish youth and farmers from four Kurdish provinces of Kermanshah, Kordistan, Ilam and West Azerbaijan engage in smuggling commodities such items as tea, tobacco and fuel to earn a living. The KMMK-G has received reports of 64 cases of government security force's shooting on Kurdish *Kulbars* in 2015 and at least 36 border couriers were killed and 29 other wounded by the government border security forces without respecting even the Iranian domestic law, which, authorize the use of lethal force only as a last resort. Moreover a significant number of Kulbaran were arrested and their goods were confiscated by the authorities.

According to our data, since the beginning of 2015, 48 Kurdish civilians were killed or wounded due to landmines and unexploded remnants of war. Among the victims are 12 children, 6 women and 2 Kulbar.

Despite Article 15 of the Iranian Constitution authorizing use of the mother tongue, children belonging to linguistic communities are largely deprived of opportunities to learn in their mother tongues. There are no schools in Iran that teach in the minority languages, such as Kurdish. Attempts by community organizations to develop extra-curricular programs have been looked upon with suspicion by authorities, with programs shut down and instructors arrested.

Given the continuing violations of human rights in Iran, and in particular in Irani Kurdistan, we urge the Council to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur.

The Association of Humanitarian Lawyers Association of Human Rights in Kurdistan of Iran – Geneva, an NGO without consultative status, also shares the views expressed in this statement.